

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAPE T 00944 111316Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 /089 W
-----070171 112253Z /66

R 111232Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7260
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAPE TOWN 944

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, WA
SUBJ: NAMIBIA: SWAPO LEADER RETURNS

1. INTERNAL SWAPO LEADER DAN TJONGARERO RETURNED QUIETLY FROM NEW YORK TO NAMIBIA ON MAY 7. TJONGARERO HAD NOT NOTIFIED ANYONE, INCLUDING HIS WIFE OR SWAPO HEADQUARTERS, OF HIS IMPENDING RETURN, AND HIS PRESENCE IN WINDHOEK DID NOT BECOME GENERALLY KNOWN FOR SEVERAL DAYS. TJONGARERO TOLD EMBOFF MAY 9 HE RETURNED PRIMARILY TO BE WITH HIS FAMILY. HE SAID HE INTENDS TO LIE LOW FOR THE TIME BEING, AND WILL NOT MAKE PUBLIC STATEMENTS OR PARTICIPATE IN SWAPO ACTIVITIES.

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2. TJONGARERO'S RETURN SURPRISED MOST OBSERVERS, WHO BELIEVE HE IS IN DANGER OF DETENTION UNDER A.G. 26, ESPECIALLY IN VIEW OF RECENT PRESS REPORTS QUOTING CAPTURED SWAPO DOCUMENTS WHICH STATE TJONGARERO VISITED ONE OF THE ANGOLAN SWAPO CAMPS RECENTLY ATTACKED BY SOUTH AFRICA. HE HIMSELF, HOWEVER, BELIEVES THE AUTHORITIES ARE UNSURE WHAT TO DO

WITH HIM AND MAY HESITATE TO ARREST HIM WITHOUT CAUSE. HE IS CONCERNED ABOUT HIS SAFETY FROM POSSIBLE ASSASSINATION ATTEMPTS, AND HAS MOVED OUT OF HIS HOUSE, WHICH IS IN A SECTION OF KATUTURA POPULATED BY DTA SUPPORTERS.

3. THE FACT THAT TJONGARERO RETURNED UNEXPECTEDLY AND HAPPENED TO ARRIVE ON THE SAME PLANE AS DTA "ROVING AMBASSADOR" JARIRETUNDU KOZONGUIZI HAS LED SOME WINDHOEK OBSERVERS TO SPECULATE THAT TJONGARERO MAY BE CHANGING SIDES. TJONGARERO LAUGHED THIS OFF, SAYING HE HAD A GOOD PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH SAM NUJOMA AND IS FIRMLY IN THE SWAPO CAMP.

4. TJONGARERO SAID HE DID NOT KNOW IF OTHER RECENTLY EXILED LEADERS PLANNED TO RETURN. LUCIA HAMUTENYA, AT SWAPO HEADQUARTERS, HOWEVER, SAID SHE BELIEVED THAT MOKGANEDI TLHABANELLO WOULD SOON RETURN IF TJONGARERO IS NOT DETAINED. HAMUTENYA, WHO IS NOW RUNNING THE SWAPO OFFICE SINGLE-HANDEDLY, SAID SHE HAS BEEN RECEIVING THREATENING TELEPHONE CALLS, WHICH SHE PRESUMES ARE FROM THE SECURITY POLICE, URGING HER TO FLEE THE TERRITORY. AT THIS POINT, HOWEVER, SHE INTENDS TO STAY, AND HOPES OTHER RECENT EXILES WILL RETURN. ONE WHO IS UNLIKELY TO DO SO IS TAUNO HATUIKULIPI. CONFIDENTIAL

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A MAY 9 WINDHOEK PRESS REPORT QUOTES A SWAPO DOCUMENT CAPTURED DURING THE ANGOLAN OPERATION AS SAYING: "TJONGARERO IS AWARE OF OUR MOVEMENTS INSIDE, BUT DOES NOT KNOW WHAT OUR TASKS ARE. ONLY TAUNO HATUIKULIPI KNOWS ABOUT THIS."

5. COMMENT: WE HAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT NUJOMA HAS BEEN TAKING CARE TO CULTIVATE TJONGARERO'S LOYALTY. IT WAS NOTABLE THAT NUJOMA TOOK THE INTERNAL LEADER WITH HIM ON HIS TOUR OF EUROPE FOLLOWING THE PROXIMITY TALKS AND THAT TJONGARERO WAS ALSO PRESENT DURING THE UNGA SPECIAL SESSION. IT SEEMS STRANGE THAT TJONGARERO DID NOT RETURN TO LUSAKA FOR SWAPO DELIBERATIONS IN THE WAKE OF THE SAG RAID INTO ANGOLA. NELSON

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